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FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1947

From Behind the Iron Curtain

Red Economic Policies in Lithuania

The following is a part of a lengthy report emanating directly from Lithuania behind the iron curtain. For obvious reasons neither the source of the report nor the way in which it reached the outside world can be disclosed under present circumstances. It testifies to the fact that the struggle for the liberation of Lithuania from Soviet occupation, with its terrors, enslavement and indescribable suffering, is going on relentlessly despite overwhelming odds.

a) **Agriculture.** Compulsory delivery quotas, shortage of manpower, and general conditions of uncertainty and fear are strangling agriculture. For the purpose of imposing delivery quotas, all farming land is divided into three classes, of which Class III serves as the basis of comparison. One hectare of Class II soil equals 1.6 ha. of Class III; one ha. of Class I equals two ha. of Class III. A farm of thirty hectares (equivalent to twenty hectares of Class II land) last year had to deliver the compulsory quota of 65 centners of grain, 8 centners of meat, 2 tons of potatoes and other vegetables, 300 litres of milk per cow and progressively more, and quantities of eggs, wool, etc.

In addition to these compulsory deliveries, such a farm had to pay 10,000 roubles in taxes during a period of eighteen months. Head taxes are imposed, as well as separate taxes payable for livestock, dogs, cats, hens, etc. Thus, from a family of six people, such a farm would pay a total of about fifteen thousand roubles in taxes per year. For compulsory deliveries the following prices are paid: 4.50 roubles for one centner of rye; 1.20 roubles per kilogram of butter. In the free market, a centner of rye is sold for 850 roubles, and one kilogram of butter brings about 200 roubles.

The greatest handicaps to agriculture, however, are the shortage of labor and general conditions of insecurity. In the spring of this year, farming land left untilled throughout the country accounted for 40 or 50 percent of the total. This includes untilled land belonging to deportees to Siberia murdered farmers, or landowners, evacuees, and farmers who have fled abroad.

Farmers cannot buy fertilizer, metal, or any other implements necessary for their work.

Moreover, agriculture is going speedily downward because deportations and murders of farmers are increasing, while the compulsory delivery quotas of agricultural products are being raised. The Lithuanian Soviet Ministry of Production supervises the disposition of products obtained by compulsory deliveries which are all exported to Russia.

The inhabitants of Lithuanian towns get scarcely any meat or butter; they must live on bread and cereals. The only persons who are well supplied are high officials, Communist Party members, and NKVD men. In the towns, seven kinds of ration card are in force. The larger the salary earned, the greater the food ration. Workers and lower paid employees can buy only 50 percent of the food ra-



FRANCIS "WHITEY" WISTERT

FRANCIS (Vistartas) WISTERT, was an All-American football player at Michigan University in 1933. He was succeeded, in 1941, by his younger brother Al as All-American at Michigan. The Associated Press had named Al Wistert the best pro tackle in the nation in 1944, 1945, and 1946. Al plays with the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League.

drawn by A. D. Yuknis

AMERICAN GAME COMES TO FINLAND



Bags of marbles included in American Junior Red Cross gift boxes to Finland stumped these youngsters on the small island of Gloholm until Sam Krakow, American Red Cross representative, came along. He "knuckled down" and showed them all the fine points of the popular American game. (American Red Cross Photo)

tions allotted to them. Their cow. Recently, all the larger factories were dismantled, and their installations were taken to Russia.

monthly ration entitles them to 3,000-5,000 grams of bread, 180 grams of meat and fish, 2,000 grams of cereals, and a little sugar, but in practice they can buy only about half this amount.

b) **Industry and trade.** All major Lithuanian industries are incorporated into the all-Soviet industrial system and are dependent upon it. Ninety percent of the total

(Continued on p. 4)

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The Lithuanians

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K of L Choir To Resume Rehearsals

CHICAGO — With the holiday season over, the K of L Chicago District Choir will resume its regular weekly rehearsals. The next rehearsal will take place Tuesday, Jan. 7th, at the K of L Youth Center, 2451 W. 47th St., at 8:00 p. m.

All members are cordially invited to be present.

Larger Crops in 1947

More than a million veterans have returned to farms from the armed forces, helping to relieve one of the most important obstacles to increased agricultural production — the labor shortage.

Larger crops will doubtless be planned for next year due to this factor, and to the favorable prices prevailing.

Synthetic Soap

In the next few years 25 per cent or more of all soaps used in the U. S. will be made from oil or natural gas, the president of a large oil company recently predicted.

Synthetic soaps of remarkable properties have been developed, it was said, and one-quarter of the nation's soaps needs could be produced from one-hundredth of the present known natural gas reserves.

LITHUANIA - SYMBOL OF OFFENDED JUSTICE

By: The Observer

Even to the non-believing the Holy Father's Christmas message must have been a powerful assurance, that in a world torn by confusion and injustice there still remains a center of unshaken moral leadership.

The voice coming from the eternal City of Rome, from Peter's Rock, was different from the voices of all those statesmen, who refusing to see the tragedies and evils of to-day are always ready to assure the world of forthcoming happiness and peace. The Holy Father did not show any such optimism; on the contrary, He said: "Instead of advancing toward real peace, people in vast territories of the globe and in large sections of Europe, are in a state of constant unrest from which there could arise sooner or later the flames of a new conflict". And He stressed: "If one wishes to return to the great principles of justice that lead to peace, one must go to Bethlehem". Indeed, there is a contrast between these words coming from the City of God and the words and deeds which proceed from the City of Men.

Symbolic of this tragic contrast is the treatment accorded today to small and defenseless nations, once they are the prey of the powerful. There was an example of this at the UN Assembly a few weeks ago when the representative of a small nation, victim of Soviet aggression, came to appeal for justice. Mr. P. Zadeikis, the Lithuanian Minister in Washington, presented a memorandum to Secretary Trygvie Lie, prepared and signed by a duly authorized committee of Lithuanians in Europe, which asked UN intervention on behalf of the people of Lithuania who are being deported and exterminated by Soviet forces.

The Lithuanian appeal, which was scarcely noticed by the press, was submitted at the time when the UN heard hot denunciations of the Franco regime in Spain as a menace to peace. However, the Lithuanian appeal was received differently. Truly embarrassed, Mr. Lie received Mr. Zadeikis in the UN Assembly hall, and by coincidence on his right stood the Soviet delegate, Mr. Gromfko. Mr. Lie politely assured the Lithuanian Minister of his sympathy, but as to action in Lithuania's defense, well, he could promise little. For the UN this case was merely embarrassing and nothing else.

Although in the Franco problem few concrete facts were available to substantiate the accusations, the Lithuanians had plenty of first rate evidence to present.

The memorandum said: "The Soviet occupation authorities during the twelve months of their first occupation (June 15, 1940 to June 22, 1941), seized and deported to Siberia, to the Altai and Kazakstan, 34,260 Lithuanians, mainly of the educated classes, whose only crime was that they were Lithuanians.

According to information at hand, the Lithuanians deported to the interior of the Soviet Union are kept in forced labor camps or in prisons. In roundabout ways we receive news of the extremely high rate of mortality among the deported Lithuanians. More than fifty percent of the men deported are said to have already died. In the summer and autumn of 1944 the Soviet Union again occupied Lithuania. During the second occupation the Soviet regime has already managed to deport over 80,000 Lithuanians. If one considers that before the war, Lithuania had barely three million inhabitants, the continued deportation of Lithuanians, besides all the other cruel, annihilating measures of the Soviet occupation, foreshadow the complete extermination of the Lithuanian people.

This is clearly a case of the wholesale murder of a nation. The memorandum requested the Secretary General: "To inscribe the question raised here on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly or to transmit it for consideration to the Economic and Social Council, so that competent United Nations organs may decide upon measures to safeguard the human rights and fundamental freedoms, guaranteed by the United Nations Charter, of the Lithuanians now under Soviet occupation".

Lithuania is not a member of the United Nations, and according to Russia and her satellites, all the three Baltic Republics are today part of the Soviet Union. Thus hardly any delegate at the UN could be found, who would have

(Continued on page 4)

"WHAT!—NO GOLDEN EGG?"



In the Wake of Christmas

Bing Crosby and Ingrid Bergman smiled; and you and I in the theatre audience laughed aloud. Remember? It was during the Christmas-play scene in "The Bells of St. Mary's." The first grade tots, gathered around the clothes' basket that represented the manger, instead of singing "Come All Ye Faithful," piped out in shrill voices, "Happy Birthday, Dear Jesus."

We laughed! But you know, the more you think about it, the more you become aware of the fact that the laugh was on us rather than on the children in the play. For they remembered something that many of us have forgotten — that Christmas is really just one, big, world-wide birthday party. It is a birthday party for Jesus Christ, Who was born almost two thousand years ago in a stable on a hillside not far from the tiny town of Bethlehem in Judea.

It is because of the birthday of Jesus Christ that every year about this time we feel our hearts swelling with what we call "the Christmas spirit." But the true Christmas spirit is really nothing else but love — love for our mothers and fathers, love for our brothers and sisters, love for our friends and for all mankind. We seem to be actually bubbling over with love, and we express this love through our gifts and Christmas cards, through our cheery "Merry Christmas" to everyone we meet.

But have you ever tried to explain to anyone just what causes this love? Is it caused by the mere celebration of the birthday of a

great man? No, the spirit of love that is in our hearts on Christmas is caused by the Infinite love of God stretching down through the centuries from that first Christmas when He gave to you and to me, to all mankind the most precious gift the world has ever received — His Son, Jesus Christ. But what is more wonderful, the spirit of love that is in our hearts today is the spirit of the Christ who is alive in our lives today.

The birth of Christ was like a pebble of love dropped into the sea of humanity, and the waves from that pebble have spread farther and farther through the ages, until now, two thousand years after Christ's birth, we still feel those ripples of love gently lapping against our hearts, and filling them with His love.

God dropped this pebble into the sea of humanity that through the gift of the Infant Jesus He might show His love for us. And it is through our adoration of the infant Jesus that we return our love for God. We celebrate the birth of Christ, yes, but we celebrate too, the fact of Christ living, the same, yesterday, today and forever. Christmas is a

(Continued on p. 3)

How I Became a "Volunteer"

By E. Matukas

3 A. M.! I had just returned from guard duty. The pre-dawn gray light was filtering through the barracks windows. My fellow soldiers were fast asleep in their bunks.

Two hours slipped by silently. Suddenly the quarterly's sharp shrill whistle split the air. His alarmed yell "Company up! Company-y-y up!" echoed through the barracks hall. This was to be our last morning as soldiers, today we were scheduled to disperse and return to our own farms, in protest against the orders to turn our troops into Germany's stooges.

A German armored car was rolling by and raking the barracks with machine gun fire. I dropped to the floor. Window panes shattered, glass fell to the floor, plaster was falling from the ceiling. It was hard to understand the reason. A shout from the hallway — "The Germans have encircled us and are shooting!"

Pandemonium broke loose. A moment later we rushed into the yard. Someone yelled "Take cover in the sugar factory!" We practically flew across the open field. Two hundred meters to the bushgrown banks of the river and safety! My friend Vincent was a pace ahead of me. "Trrrrrr...rat...tat...tat..." whined a machine gun directly in front of us. I stumbled and fell. Poor Vincent took a few steps, arms outstretched he pitched forward on his face, dropping on the soil we all had fought so desperately hard to defend.

I crawled toward the riverbank. The machine gun continued firing, followed in close succession by rifle shots and exploding hand grenades. The noise finally died down. I waded across a ditch, got up, raised my head and stared — straight into the leering face of an armed German, who in a guttural voice commanded "Hande hoch!" (Hands up!). Then in Lithuanian — "Duok ginklą!" (Surrender arms!). From his accent I

gathered he was one of the "repatriates", a native "Volksdeutsche". He was set to kill. I told him I had no arms, because last night all arms were surrendered. "Back to the barracks", he barked, motioning with his tommygun.

My comrades were all lined up in the barracks yard, hands upraised. They were encircled by SS troopers with fixed bayonets. They drove us into the riding rink. An armored car lumbered up to the door. An SS officer quietly stated: "Don't try to run away, you will be shot without warning!"

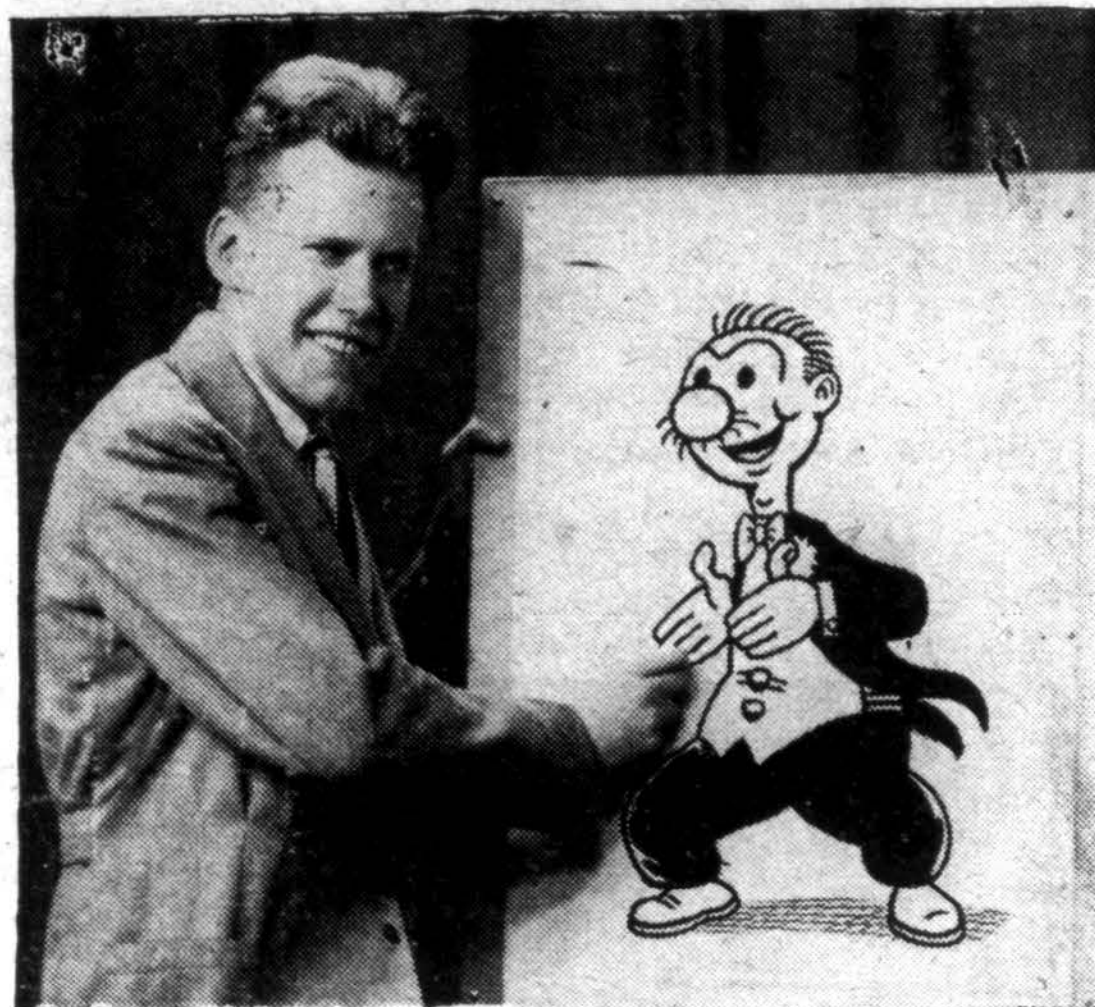
Hours passed. The afternoon wore away. Night came. Finally we summed down on the grassy ground. The following morning we were driven in small groups to the girls' junior college grounds. We passed a physical examination. Metal tags were hung around our necks. We then received sheets of paper identifying us as members of the "Kampfhelfer" (auxiliary combatants). In the afternoon we were dressed in German Luftwaffe (Air Corps) uniforms. We saw crows gathered outside. I glanced out — and there were my dear parents. We were permitted to speak to them but a moment, and only from a distance.

Heavy SS trucks arrived in the evening. There were 106 of us — the other half succeeded in escaping. We were called by numbers. Each man, whose number was called, picked up his belongings and was placed aboard the truck. My number was called and I took my bags and took my place in the truck. We were taken back to the same barracks, guarded by re-enforced sentries.

We retired for the night

(Ed. note: The following is an account of the events of May 15, 1944, when the recently created Lithuanian self-defense units clashed with German troops when they attempted to incorporate them into the Wehrmach).

MEET THE MAESTRO HIMSELF



We want you to meet ANTHONY DENIS YUKNIS, gifted artist and cartoonist, whose sketches of popular Lithuanian athletes have been appearing in the ENGLISH SECTION during the past several weeks. These sketches are taken from Mr. Yuknis' book THE LITHUANIANS, "The People of Song", a very interesting work about Lithuanian's ancestry and culture, especially written for the special notice about this work, appearing on page 1 in to-day's ENGLISH SECTION.

Mr. Yuknis' cartoons have appeared nationally in a number of comic magazines, newspapers and trade journals.

and tried to sleep. Despair engulfed all.

We were awakened at 4 A. M. Ordinary passenger automobiles were lined up in the yard, with SS sentries running back and forth. They were all swearing at "Ferfluchtes Volk" (The damned nation, or people), etc. We were loaded into the cars. In silence we passed the city of Marijampolė and turned northward, toward Kybartai. The direction was apparent — the "Greater Reich".

The morning mist and our hopeless future depressed us. We looked with sad eyes on the blooming cherry orchards and the fields. "How nice to be free again..."

The frontier of Germany. In bitter silence, we left our native land. The monotonous plains of East Prussia rolled

(CHRITMAS, from p. 2)

birthday party at which WE receive this gift. But at a birthday party should we not give a gift in return, the gift of our love in return for God's love?

by. We passed Gumbinnen, Insterburg, and Koenigsberg. Where would we stop? On and on we went.

Marrienburg and Elbing raced by. We turned toward Danzig. Another hour and we approached a forest. The cars stopped. We peered at the road sign: "Waldlager Stutthof" (The Forest Camp Stutthof). Our eyes were glued up on the city of barracks, surrounded by barbed wire fences and armed guards. The cars stopped again. We were met by armed guards of the Stutthof concentration camp, with bayonets pointing at us. The gate was swung open, and our cars entered funeral-like. We looked back at the curious glances of the lean, hungry inmates of the camp. On their coats sleeves they bore a painted red cross with a number. Suddenly from a barrack we heard a shout — "The Lithuanians!" We looked in the direction whence the cry came. I recognized the former "Counsellor" Germantas, the Reverend Lipninas, Lieut. Va-

(Continued on p. 4)

THIS IS AMERICA

CELEBRATING ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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PRESTON SAYS: "3 OR 4 SMALL INDUSTRIES WOULD FIND A WELCOME BERTH AND MAKE OUR ANNIVERSARY COMPLETE."

By JOHN RANCK

What of the New Year?

J. P. K.

We've just stepped over threshold of another year, greatly enraptured in thought, wondering what the future has in store for us. We entered the New Year with hearts filled with the happy remembrances and sentiments of the past year. However, the uncertainty of the New Year is filled with mystery and wonderment for each and everyone of us. Only the future will be able to answer such questions as — what will be the moments of gladness, sorrows, the moments of pain? — what has Almighty God destined for me in the New Year?

The terrible war through which we have passed has, without doubt, marked the lives and characters of countless individuals. All of us felt the burden of war in some way or other. Many have suffered this self same burden until humanly speaking it was impossible for them to do more. Many were the difficult situations that arose and countless heart-breaking circumstances have been the portion of a great many individuals. We have but to note the innumerable gold stars displayed in countless living-room windows — silent symbols of people who had given up a part of themselves so that others might retain what is dearest to them.

That was the past — 1946 — left to be laid away — put aside, forgotten. We've entered upon a New Year, that part of life which is to everyone what Youth is to life. Old discouragements, misfortunes, great and small as they were, can be discarded in the hopefulness that is born of a new start. In a word, the New Year is the time for planning as though nothing had hap-

(VOLUNTEER, from p. 3) lentinas. There were many other Lithuanians whom I did not know.

We were lined up in front of a vacant barrack. Our heads were counted. The camp's commandant reminded us that any attempt to escape would end in failure and carried a death sentence. We entered the barracks.

Evening. 10 P. M. For the first time we had witnessed a sunset in a strange land, far from home. On every lip was a silent prayer—"Spare us, O Lord! Save us from this terrible camp!"

We stayed in this camp several days. Then one day we were transferred to a nearby barracks. We were all lined up. A fat German lieutenant made a speech informing us — "That from now on you are joining the struggle against all the enemies of the New Europe".

And so I, and my 105 comrades, were transformed into "volunteers" in the German armed forces...

(Lithuanian Bulletin)

pened before.

It is with the beginning of the New Year that we always resolve to better our lives. However, to be always intending to lead a new life but never to find time to go about, is as if a man were to put off eating and drinking from one day to another till he is starved and death ensues. That is why it is said that not how many new resolutions we make is what counts, but how well we live up to them.

We have but to look around us today and take note of the sad and chaotic conditions throughout the world. True — it is months now since the bells have pealed out the glad tidings of Victory. Alas, today nations are still unrestful; still groping around for Peace in the darkness. They all wish for Peace but the wish alone does not do much to give us the assurance of Peace nor is the mere desire for Peace a sufficient guarantee.

We are glad to see our young men discharged from their respective Services. Yet, we hear gruesome and scary talks about atomic bombing and its priceless value as a weapon of defence. We hear about bills concerning compulsory military training. Yet, we are trying to set up Peace in the world. Going about it in such fashion certainly won't bring us any closer than what we are now.

Since Peace is based upon good order it follows, that for each and every indi-

Comedienne



PAMELA BRITTON was spotted by a bright M-G-M talent scout, making fun in the Chicago company of "Oklahoma!" Before you could say local-girl-makes-good she was signed to an enviable contract and whisked-off to Hollywood. Her latest laugh-chore is in "The Sailor Takes A Wife."

dual harmony should have its foundation in justice and charity. Thus, if anything, let us resolve for the New Year to be ever more charitable and just towards our neighbor. That way we may be sure that the burdens, miseries, and misfortunes of life will not assail us. Also, the peace which we are all hoping for will be realized since "to commit no wrong against another, to respect the sanctity of another's rights, to practice mutual trust and good will, these are indeed the unchanging and lasting bonds of Peace, whose virtue is such that she stifles even the germs of hatred and jealousy".

Thus all of us — we can use it — the New Year — as a shining new instrument placed at our disposal. But like any instrument — it will accomplish nothing if left laying aside; it must be taken up and wielded with energy and vigor. As youth takes life into its hands, let us seize upon the New Year and use it to advance to true Peace and success in life as we have never advanced before.

(LITHUANIA, from page 2)

the courage to take up the issue and accuse the powerful Soviets before the United Nations of murder. The matter was simply sent to Committee Nr. 3, from there to the Committee on Human Rights and finally returned to the Secretary General's office. There, it seems, it will remain. No, uprooted, small Lithuania had no chance before the tribunal of the City of Men. Its statesmen are still busy trying to marry good with evil in the name of their peculiar conception of unity.

The Holy Father warned against precisely this type of duality in justice, seeing in it the promise of inescapable doom. He appealed instead for: "A peace that is morally noble and irreproachable; such a peace that may teach future generations to outlaw every trace of brutal force and to restore to the idea of right the priority of place from which it was wickedly dislodged". However, the proud City of Men seems very remote from the realization of that eternal truth and chooses to build world order on foundations of dynamite. This is why, contrary to all assurances of statesmen, chances of true peace in 1947 are so slim. This is why the Holy Father calls upon all Christians for action.

(IRON CURTAIN, fr. p. 1.)

production is sent to Moscow. In the field of commerce, there exist State (so-called cooperative) and commercial (or legalized black-market) stores. Black-market prices are eight or nine times greater than the prices listed on the ration cards. With ration cards, the people can obtain practically no consumer goods, for these go first to Communist Party members, People's Ministers, and NKVD officials. Commercial store prices for a man's suit range from 7,000 to 8,000 roubles, while work shoes cost 1,000 roubles.

In exchange for agricultural and industrial products sent to Russia, Lithuania receives some kerosene, coal, and salt of poor quality. The ratio of goods exported and imported is one to ten, to Lithuania's disadvantage.

c) **Earnings.** The incomes received by employees and workers reflect the class distinction and antisocial policies of the Soviet system. The average earnings of a laborer or a low-paid employee are about 350 roubles a month, of which only about 200 roubles remain after compulsory deductions have been made. The People's Ministers, members of the Communist Party central committee, and higher NKVD officials receive 400 roubles a month after deductions.

Moreover, these few persons who are close to the Government can improve their living standards considerably by so-called "limit cards" which grant the holder the right to buy textiles, wearing apparel, and food products at special stores, at state-set prices, and bestow various privileges regarding living quarters, use of means of transportation, etc. To the ranks of such privileged persons belong artists, writers, and painters, the majority of whom serve the cause of Soviet foreign and domestic propaganda.

Mr. Business went to Mass, He never missed a Sunday. Mr. Business went to hell, For what he did on Monday.

— Integrity

